4 Belgrave F-3 (no date) 1953 MZ2 Bahrain MZ2

The following are the first days of the next ten Hijra years : 805

1372—September 21st, 1952
1373—September 10th, 1953.
1374—August 30th, 1954.
1375—August 20th, 1955.
1376—August 8th, 1956.
1377—July 29th, 1957.
1378—July 18th, 1958.
1379—July 7th, 1959.
1380—June 26th, 1960.
1381—June 15th, 1961.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

In addition to the standard weights and measures, the following are in use in Bahrain : 804

Weight.		*Length.*	
39 tolas	= 1 ratl (1 pound)	12 busas (inch)	= 1 qadm (foot)
4 ratls	= 1 rub'a	3 aqdam	= 1 waar (yard)

56 ratls = 1 maund.
14 rub'as = 1 maund.

SUNRISE AND SUNSET

Date.	*Sunrise.*	*Sunset.*	*Date.*	*Sunrise.*	*Sunset.*
1st Jan.	7.25 a.m.	5.58 p.m.	1st July	5.49 a.m.	7.34 p.m.
1st Feb.	7.44 a.m.	6.20 p.m.	1st Aug.	6.03 a.m.	7.26 p.m.
1st Mar.	7.02 a.m.	6.40 p.m.	1st Sep.	6.18 a.m.	6.57 p.m.
1st April	6.31 a.m.	6.55 p.m.	1st Oct.	6.30 a.m.	6.25 p.m.
1st May	6.02 a.m.	7.09 p.m.	1st Nov.	6.47 a.m.	5.56 p.m.
1st June	5.41 a.m.	7.27 p.m.	1st Dec.	7.08 a.m.	5.45 p.m.

CHURCHES

At the time of writing there are three churches in Bahrain, the Roman Catholic Church on Shaikh Isa Road, Manama, where there is also an English speaking school, and the Dutch Reformed Church of America, at the junction of Shaikh Isa Road and Shaikh Abdulla Road. 795 797

There is also in Bahrain an Anglican Chaplain and an Anglican Church on a plot of ground to the east of the Police Fort donated by the Ruler of Bahrain.

There is a church building in Awali which is used for services by various denominations.

NEWSPAPERS AND BOOKS

There are no English language newspapers published in Bahrain with the exception of a fortnightly duplicated magazine published by and for the English speaking employees of BAPCO. There are, however, four Arabic publications. The *Government Gazette*, the official publication of the Bahrain Government in which official notices, laws and reports are found, *Sawt al-Bahrain*, a monthly with articles of literary, cultural and religious interest, articles on Bahrain, poetry and a gossip column, *al-Khamila*, a weekly mainly concerned with the doings of the entertainment world in Egypt and containing light articles, jokes and poems and *al-Qafila*, the newest publication. 204 ●

204 In addition to the English language papers published in Iraq, Lebanon and Egypt, many English and American papers have airmail editions, which take a very short time in reaching Bahrain. Other papers and magazines are on sale in the Manama shops, both American and English, but they take rather longer to arrive. It is possible to receive the *Irak Times* by air, and also numerous Arabic papers from Egypt and Lebanon.

217 There is a public library in Bahrain, the Library of the Education Department, in Shaikh Abdulla Road, which contains Arabic and English books and magazines. There is a subscription library of English fiction and non-fiction at the Residency, Jufair and also libraries in many of the clubs. The largest library in Bahrain is that of the Bapco Club. Some Manama shops have large selections of books and one of them specialises in new books on Middle Eastern topics and stocks them soon after their publication.

CLOTHING (EUROPEAN)

291 Men in the summer wear shirts and slacks or shorts and light tropical suits on formal occasions. In the evening white opened-necked and short sleeved shirts and white trousers are usual, with black shoes and socks and a black cummerbund at more formal affairs. Aertex or similar day shirts are the most suitable form of wear and cellular vests are useful, not for warmth but to absorb sweat. All forms of clothing for summer wear in Bahrain can be bought in Manama, both ready made and tailored.

In cold weather ordinary tweed suits are worn, or flannel trousers and sports coats and dinner jackets in the evening. It is cold enough for pullovers and overcoats, especially after sunset.

Washing frocks, preferably cotton, are the best wear for women in the very hot weather, as linen or silk are unsuitable when the temperature and humidity are high. Light frocks are usually worn from April till December. Hats are worn on rare occasions. Cotton dress materials can be obtained locally as well as ready made English and American frocks.

In the cold season women require the type of clothing which is worn in England in April and May, and in the Fall in the States. In addition, the cold winter winds call for a really warm coat. As with summer clothes, those needed in the winter can be made in Manama from locally purchased material.

HOTELS

185 366 There are only two hotels in Bahrain attaining European standards, the B.O.A.C. Guest House and the Bahrain Hotel. The former is primarily built for the benefit of transit passengers and it is often difficult for visitors to Bahrain who expect to stay for some time to get a room there. The Bahrain Hotel, which is at the west end of Prior Road, offers good food and is in fact the only alternative to the B.O.A.C. Guest House. There are a number of small local hotels which are not in the same class as these two.

organize the secondary school system. The teachers received from £25 to £30 a month and "bed and board" paid by the Bahrein government. Interestingly enough, the first director of the first school opened at Muharraq was the present Saudi Arabian Minister to London, Sheik Hafiz Wahba.

At present, there is no newspaper in Bahrein. A weekly newspaper, Al Bahrein, was founded in 1939, but ceased its publication after the death of its publisher, Abdallah Za-id. In 1940 a broadcasting station was built, and the Al-Bahrein Radio started short-wave broadcasts on a 23-m, 50 band on November 4. During the war, Radio Bahrein was most useful to the Allied cause, since its four daily news broadcasts in Arabic and Persian were heard more easily throughout the Near East than those of Egypt.

Besides the schools, two "circles" for the discussion of political and literary matters were established in 1935 under the patronage of the brother of the Sheik. There was already a Cercle Israelite in the island.

ECONOMY

The geographical features and the geological formation of the islands greatly reduce the economic value of Bahrein. The scarcity of water and the sandy nature of the soil exclude agricultural development. The application of modern methods of agriculture and the utilization of artesian wells and gasoline operated pumps are too recent and too inadequate to make Bahrein even partially independent of imported food. For many years to come, and probably forever, the islands will be dependent on food, meat, vegetables, and fruits brought chiefly from the Persian or Arabian mainland.

Fortunately, in most of the islands of the Persian Gulf and the surrounding regions, wherever water is found naturally or captured artificially, date palms grow with astonishing ease. The northern part of Bahrein Island, thanks to natural springs and more recently to artesian wells, is practically a string of oases with palm groves numbering several hundred thousands.